

What is claimed is:

Claim 1. An elongate canister comprising a generally rectangular cross-section formed by a front wall, a five-section back wall and two side walls, the front wall, irregular back wall and side walls, the walls extending between the top and bottom of the canister and having dimensions so that a generally hexagonally shaped interior is formed to house a plurality of generally circular shaped microorganism identification test devices stacked one atop another within the canister.

Claim 2. The canister of claim 1 further comprising a top end portion and a bottom end portion closing the top and bottom of the canister.

Claim 3. The canister of claim 1 further comprising a number of internal ribs extending along the interior of the front walls and side walls to secure the test devices within the canister.

Claim 4. The canister of claim 2 further comprising a mounting flange extending slightly below the bottom end portion and shaped to seat into a mounting groove within an environmentally controlled chamber so that the rotor canister may be secured within the mounting groove in a vertical position.

Claim 5. The canister of claim 4 further comprising a rotor canister latching flange extending slightly above the top end portion, the latching flange having a pair of canister latch steps engagable by spring-loaded latching cams secured within the chamber.

Claim 6. The canister of claim 4 further comprising a test device eject port formed in the front wall proximate the mounting flange and sized to allow the lowermost test device within a plurality of test devices stacked one atop another within the canister to be pushed out of the canister by a plunger.

Claim 7. The canister of claim 6 wherein the eject port has the shape of a rectangular opening formed between a pair of rotor canister protrusions each having an opened rotor canister slit at the top of protrusions.

Claim 8. The canister of claim 7 further comprising an upwardly projecting flexible tab extending into the eject port and adapted to retain rotors within canister to impede

accidental dislodging of a test device from the canister and to impede rotors from being improperly inserted back into canister.

5 **Claim 9.** The canister of claim 1 comprising an indented sheet of plastic folded in half and sealed at a flange extending the full length of the canister between the front wall and the five-section back wall.

Claim 10. The canister of claim 9 further comprising a sealed fold extending the full length of the canister between the front wall and the five-section back wall.

For the reasons